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WASHINGTON (Dow Jones)--A bipartisan group of U.S. congressmen Wednesday urged World Bank President Robert Zoellick to end development loans to Iran.

In a letter to Zoellick, a dozen members of House committees with jurisdiction over foreign aide said World Bank lending to Iran puts the institution at odds with U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning Iran for expanding its nuclear program.

"Multilateral organizations represent the best and highest potential for U.S. and allied diplomacy," according to the letter signed by Reps. Steven Rothman, D-N.J., Mark Kirk, R-Ill., Rob Andrews, D-N.J., and others. "The success of that diplomacy will be enhanced if the U.N. and the World Bank work together."

According to the congressmen, the World Bank disbursed \$220 million worth of loans to Iran during the fiscal year ended June 30. A further \$870 million is earmarked for projects in Iran through 2010.

Efforts to contact the World Bank press office by telephone and email were unsuccessful.